

ABSOLUTE

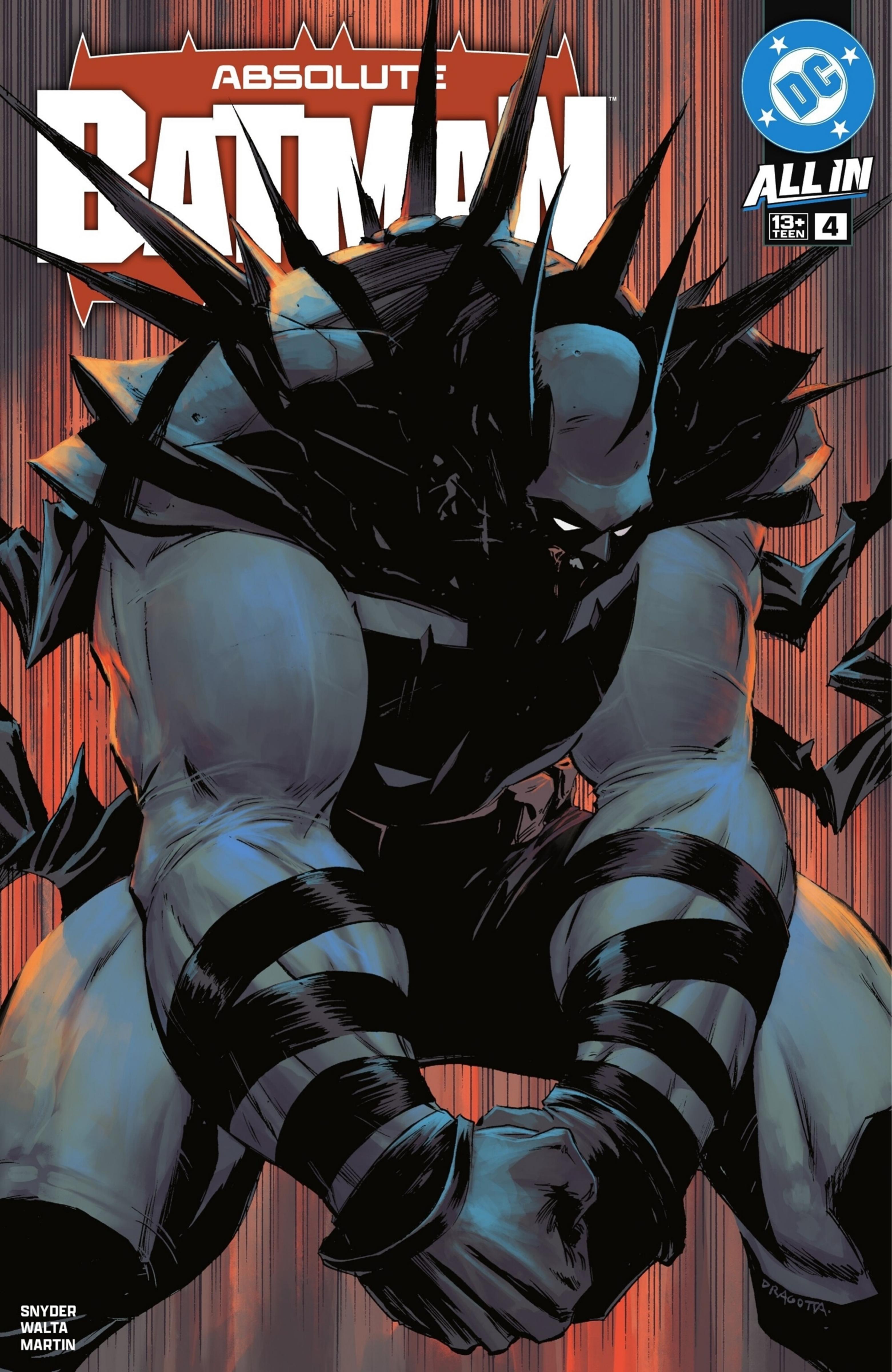
# BATMAN

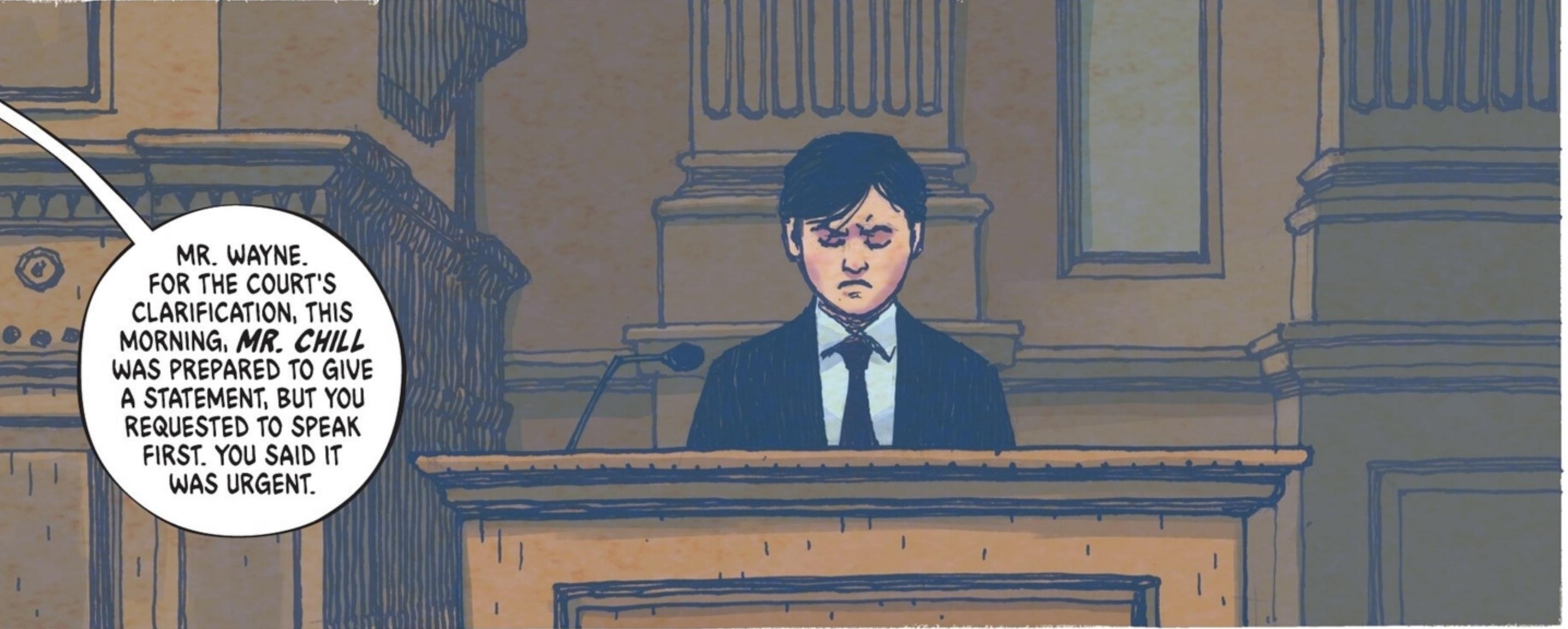


ALL IN

13+  
TEEN

4





MR. WAYNE.  
FOR THE COURT'S  
CLARIFICATION, THIS  
MORNING, MR. CHILL  
WAS PREPARED TO GIVE  
A STATEMENT, BUT YOU  
REQUESTED TO SPEAK  
FIRST. YOU SAID IT  
WAS URGENT.



IT'S  
UNCONVENTIONAL,  
BUT GIVEN THE  
**EXTRAORDINARY**  
NATURE OF THIS CASE,  
I'VE GRANTED YOU  
THAT RIGHT.



YOU CAN  
GO AHEAD NOW,  
SON. SO...



...WHAT IS  
IT YOU HAVE  
TO SAY?

GO ON.  
CONVINCE  
ME.

TELL ME WHY YOU THREE ALONE  
SHOULD BE EXEMPT WHEN EVERYONE  
ELSE CHIPS IN. AND SOME FOLKS  
REALLY HAVE TO SCROUNGE. YOU  
DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE THINGS  
THEY DO TO CONTRIBUTE.  
RIGHT, SIMON?

HEARTBREAKING.

BUT THEY HAVE **PRIDE** IN  
THIS PLACE. HISTORIC PARK  
ROW. YOU KNOW THESE DAYS  
PEOPLE ARE CALLING IT  
"CRIME ALLEY"?

BUT UPKEEP TAKES MONEY. SO TELL  
US--NO, TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS  
OUT THERE--**WHY DON'T YOU CARE**  
ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?  
MRS. NGUYEN?



I CARE PLENTY. MY  
MOTHER GREW UP  
HERE. AND I HAVE  
THREE GIRLS  
IN SCHOOL--

TITI--

NO, HENRY.  
IT DOESN'T  
MATTER. I  
WON'T PAY  
A GANG.



MRS. NGUYEN. WE'RE MISUNDERSTANDING  
EACH OTHER, HERE. **TEN THIEVES** ISN'T  
A GANG. WE ONLY WANT TO KEEP THIS  
PLACE SAFE. WITHOUT PROPER  
FUNDING, THOUGH...

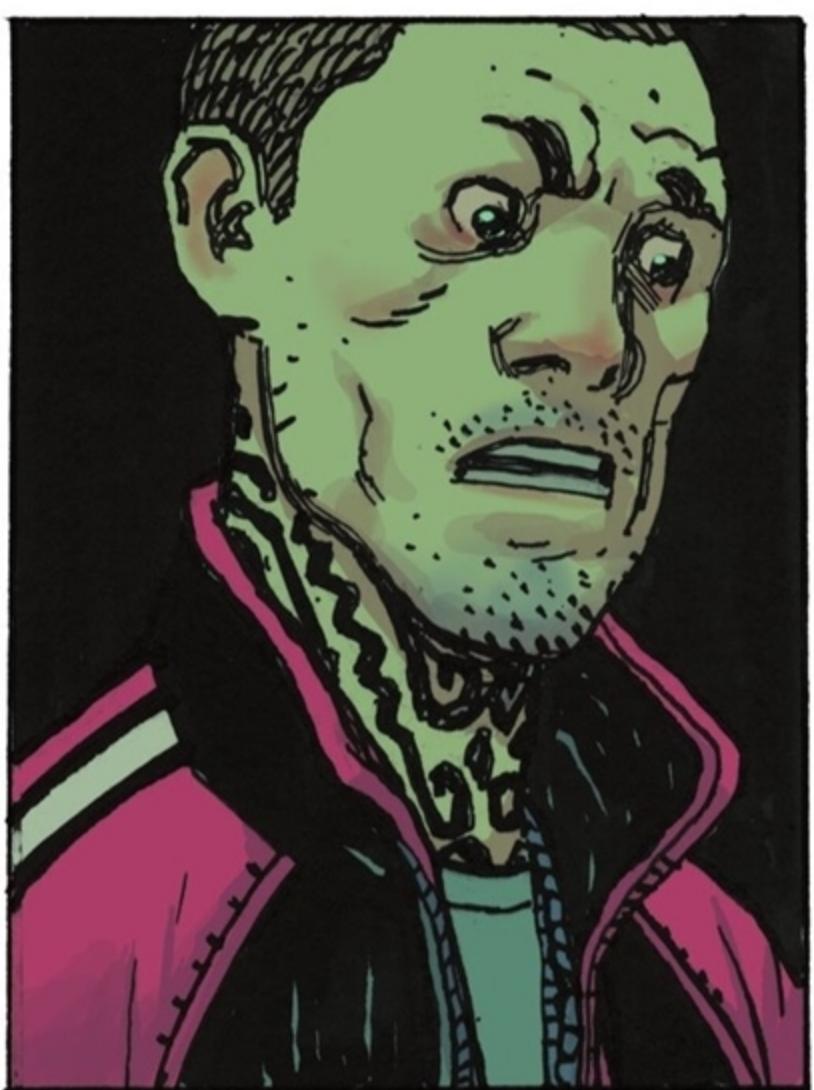
...WE JUST  
CAN'T DO  
THAT.



SEE?

WE DON'T STAY VIGILANT  
AND THINGS GET REAL  
UNPREDICTABLE REAL FAST.  
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT  
COULD HAP--

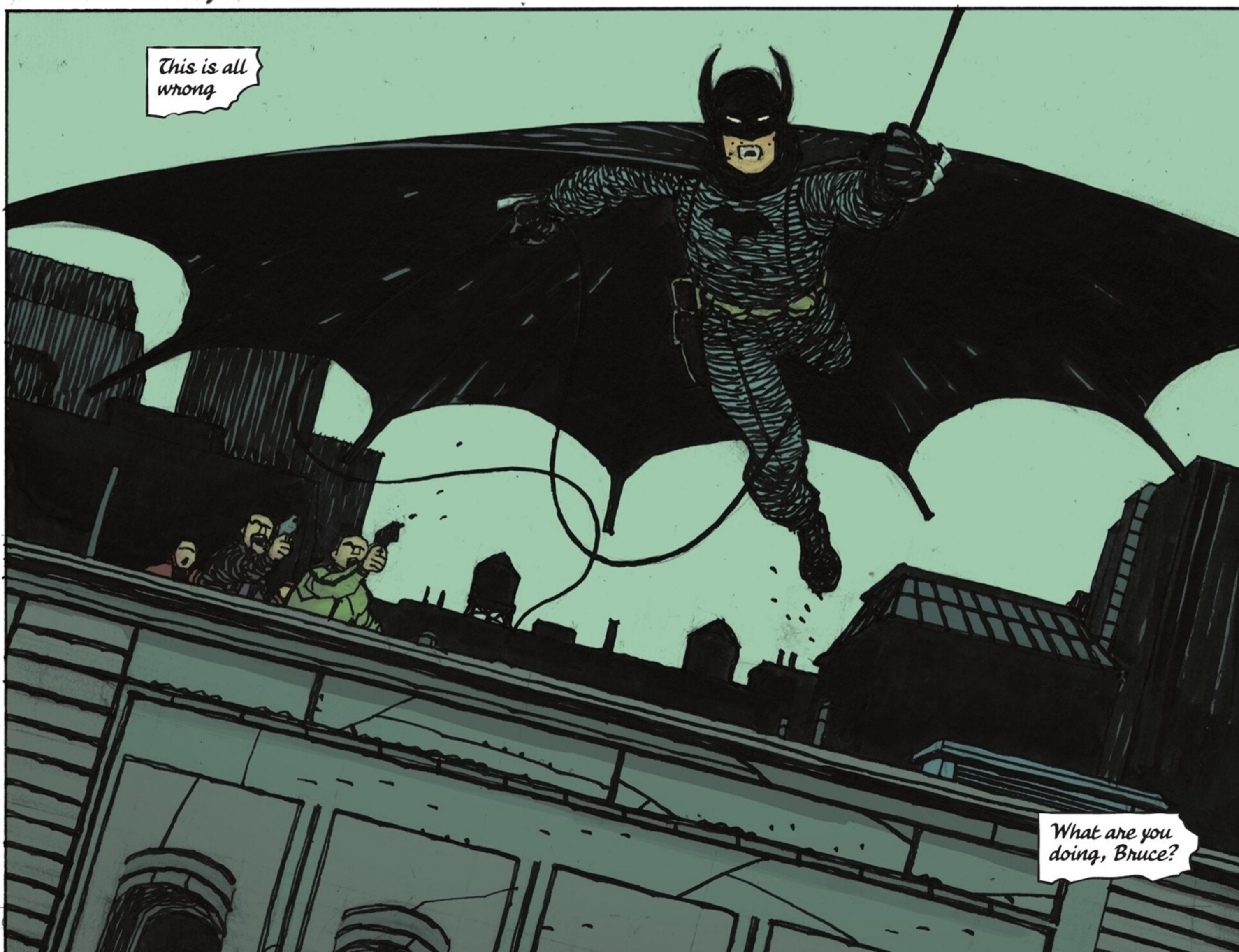




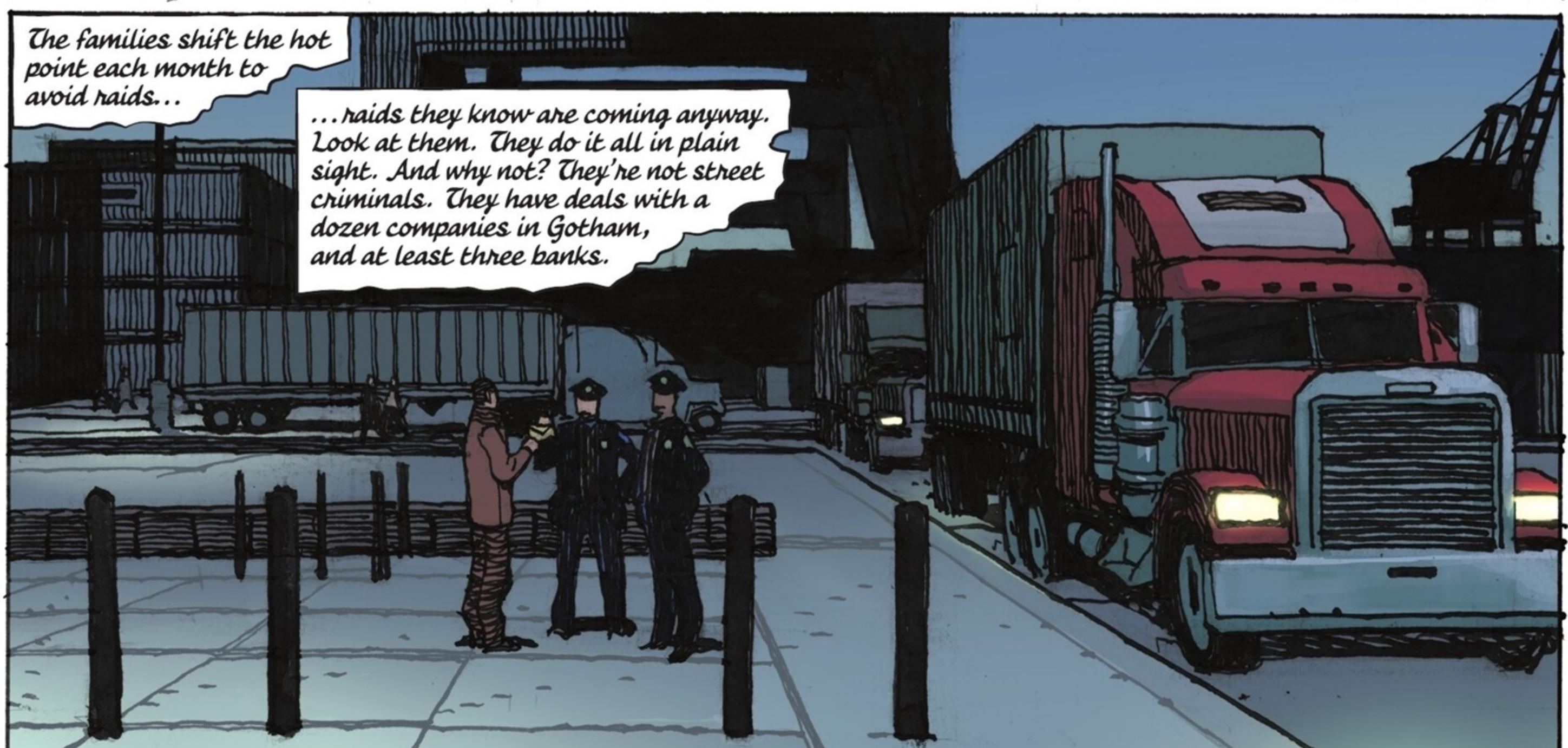
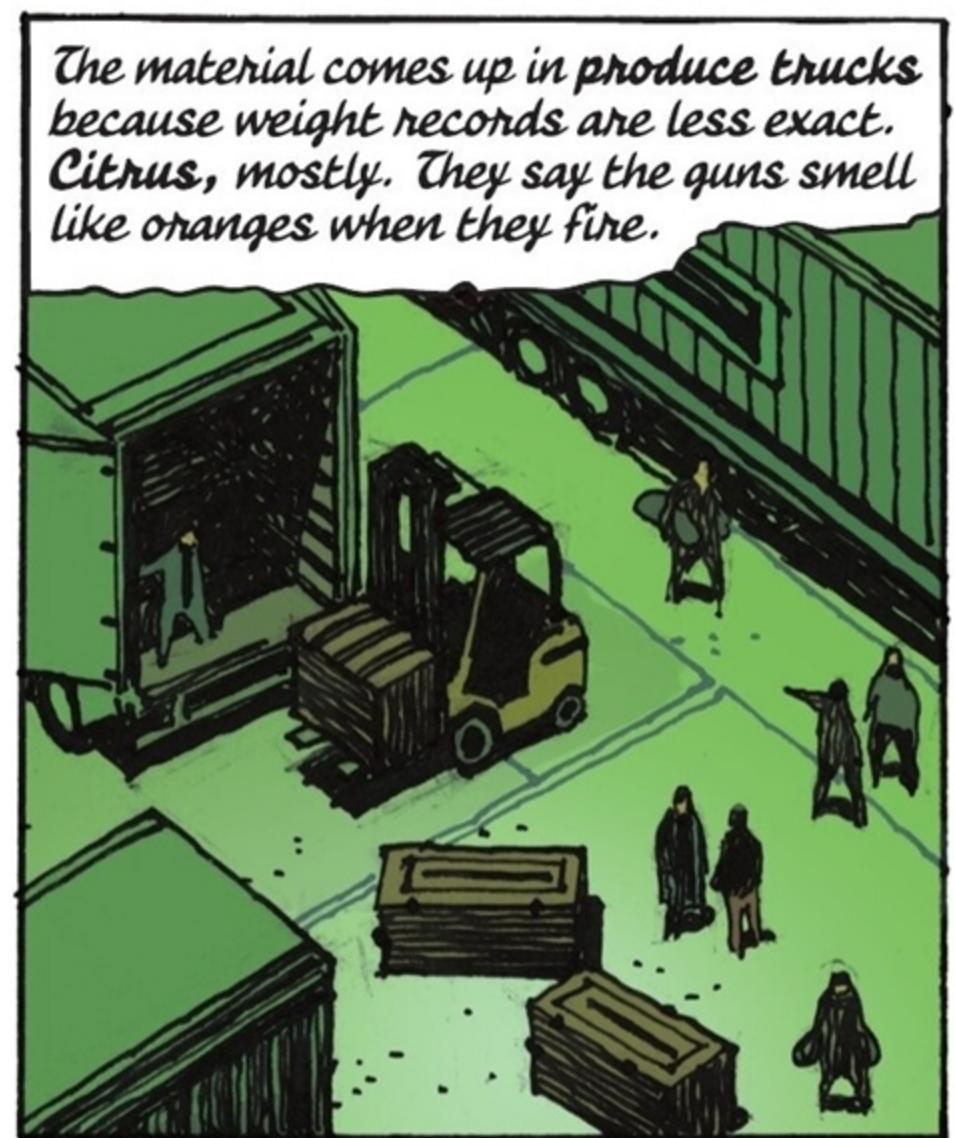
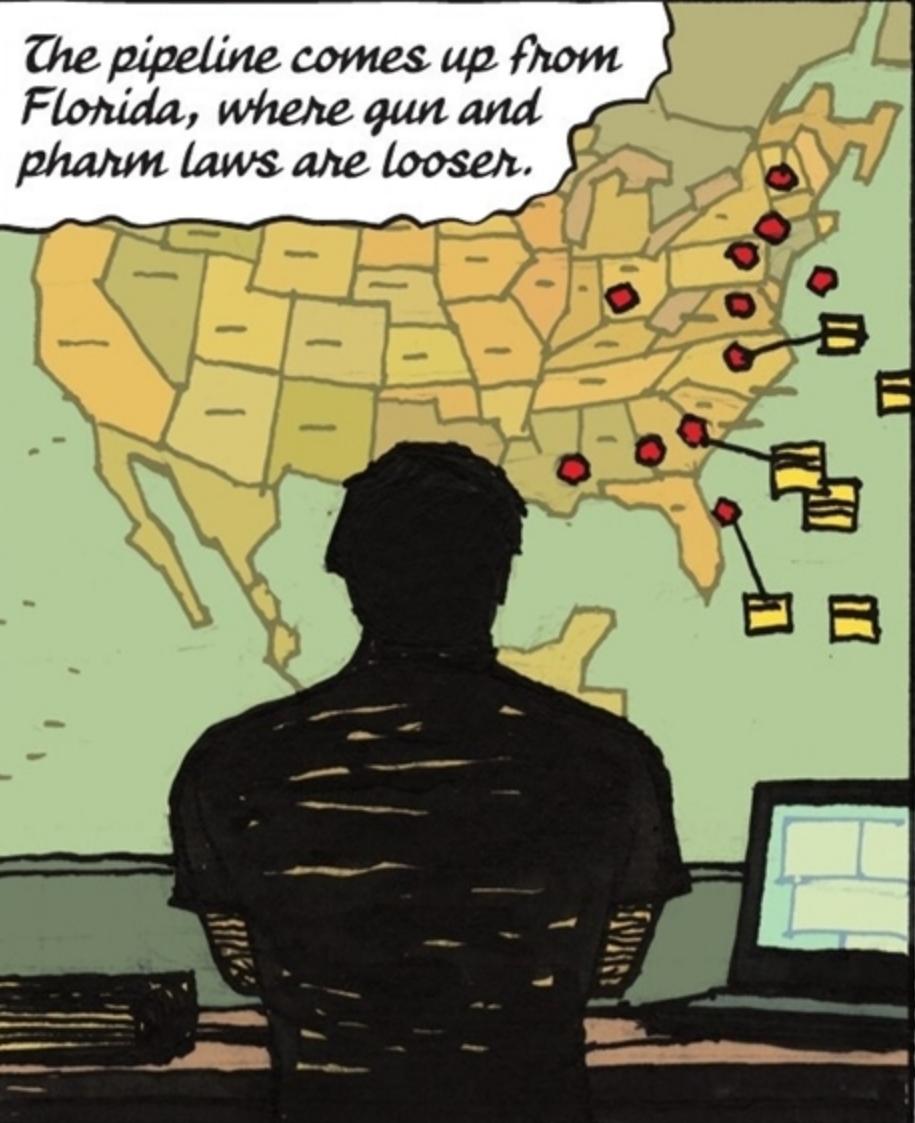




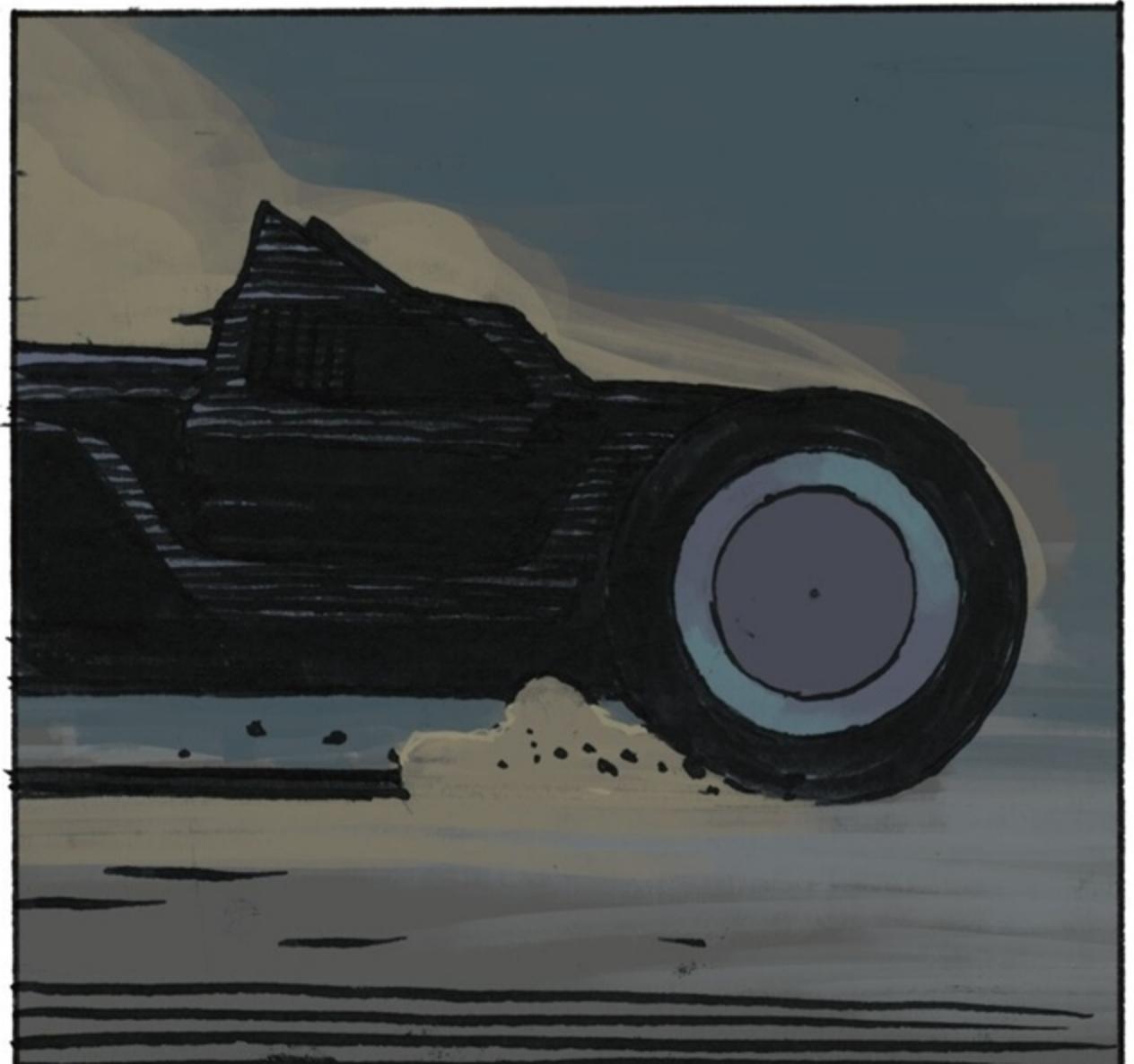
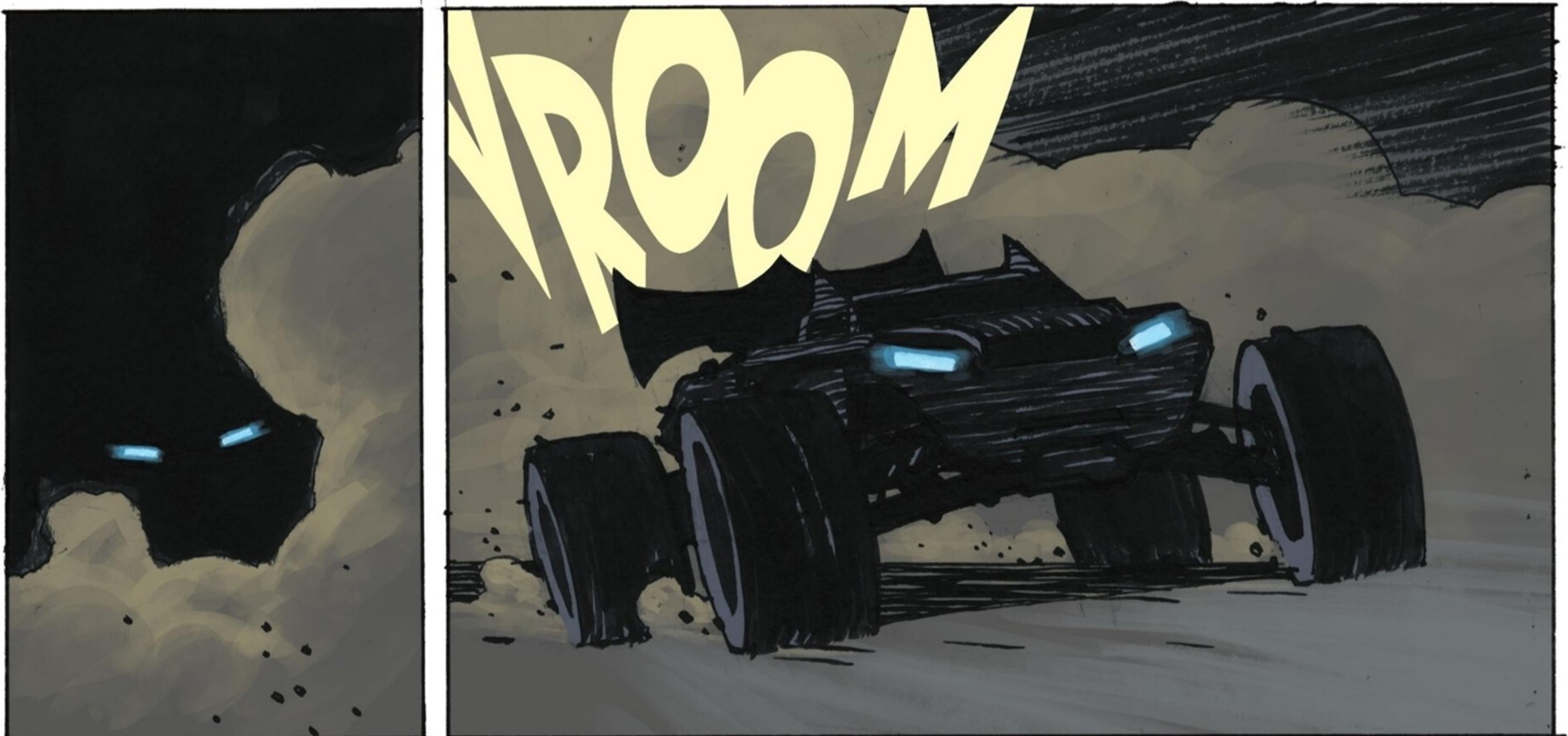








They're just too damn  
large to take down.



AND SHE SAYS,  
"NO, I LEFT THE KID IN  
THE CAR THIS MORNING.  
HE'S FINE." DUDE. IT WAS  
#\\$%& MIDNIGHT.  
FIVE BELOW.

HH. BEEN  
TELLING YOU,  
WHOLE WORLD  
THESE DAYS  
IS GOING...

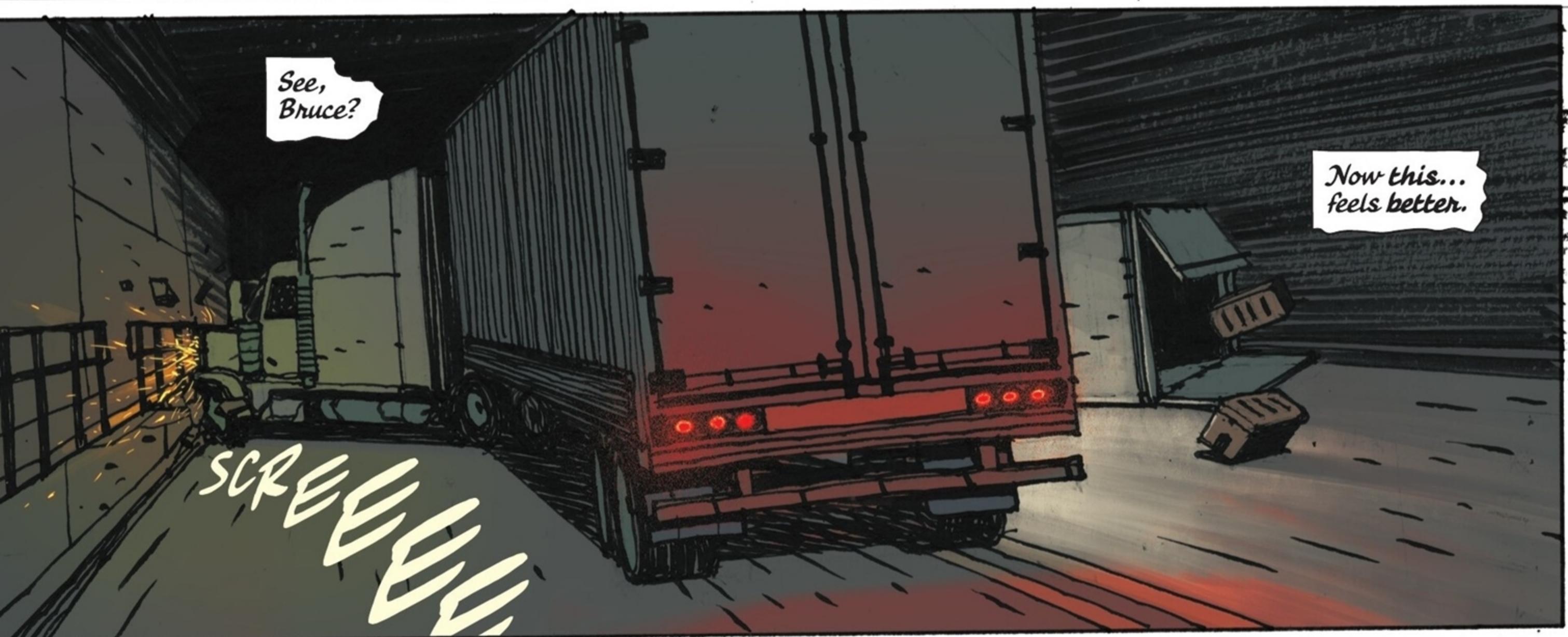
...CRAZY?

WHAT THE...RUN HIM  
DOWN! COME ON!

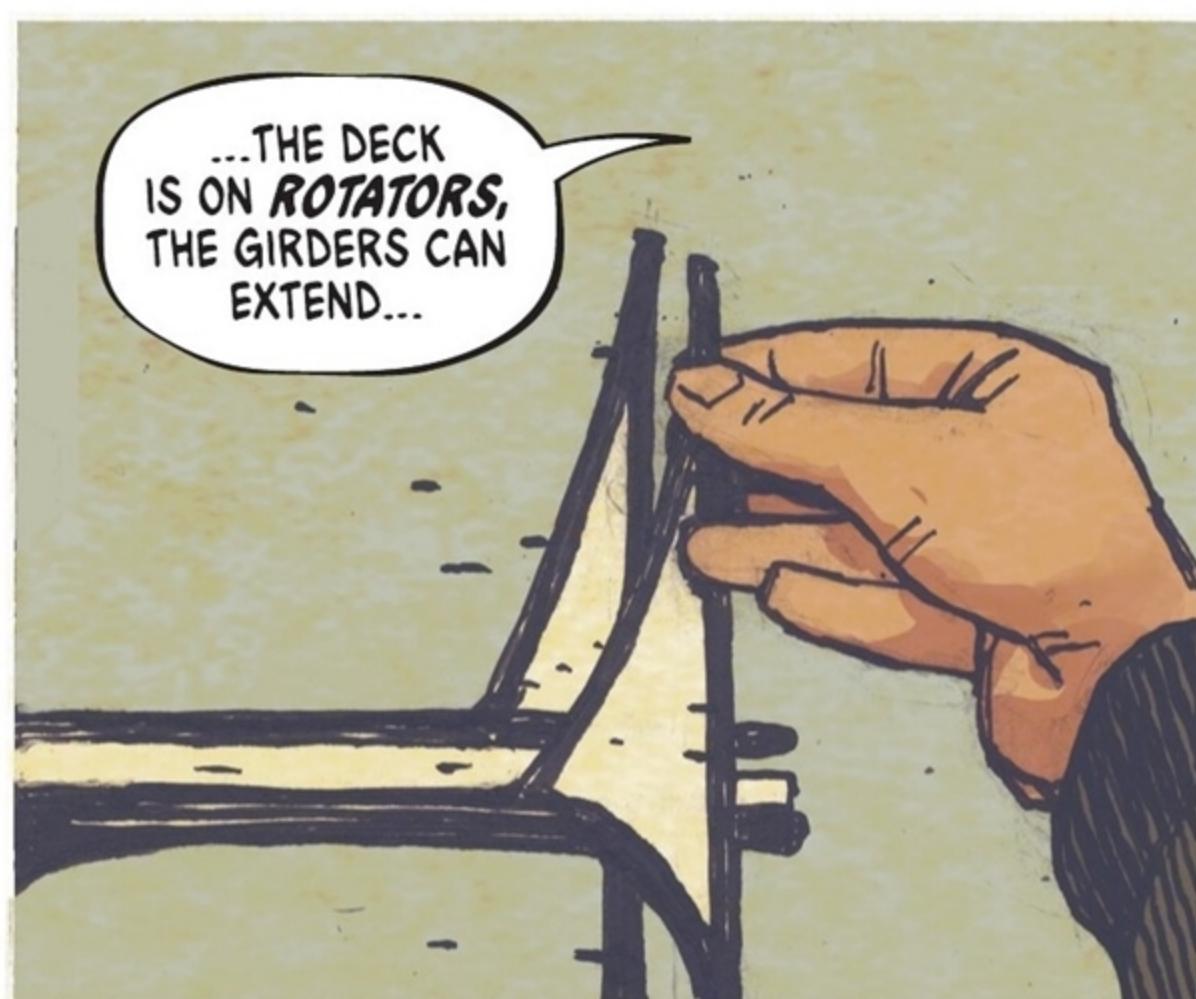
CLIK

POW

A bottle jack. An RC Roadster loaded with a 4600KV. Some black paint. All under a grand.







SOMETIMES YOU DON'T. SOMETIMES IT'S TRIAL AND ERROR. YOU KNOW, BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, ALL I WANTED TO BE WAS A DOCTOR. A HEART SURGEON.

SERIOUSLY?  
WHY?

WHEN I WAS A KID, MY DAD, YOUR GRANDPA, HE DROVE THE G39 BUS ROUTE SIX DAYS A WEEK. ON HIS DAY OFF, THOUGH, THE TWO OF US WOULD GO DOWN TO AMUSEMENT MILE, WALK OUT ON THE PIER. THERE WAS A GUY THERE WHO SOLD THESE FROZEN BANANAS DIPPED IN CHOCOLATE, AND WE'D GET ONE. I LOVED IT.

"ANYWAY, ONE SUNDAY, WE WERE ON OUR WAY..."

"...AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, MY FATHER JUST...DROPPED. I THOUGHT HE WAS PLAYING A JOKE, BRUCE. BUT THEN I SAW HIS FACE.

"I KNEW HE WAS DEAD, AND THAT FEAR...THE TERROR OF BEING LEFT ALONE LIKE THAT."

WHAT WAS IT? THAT KILLED HIM, I MEAN.

IT WAS A MASSIVE CORONARY. THE DOCTOR SAID HE WAS DEAD BEFORE HE HIT THE GROUND.

SO IT JUST BECAME WHAT I WANTED TO DO. HEART SURGEON. I WAS ABOUT TO APPLY TO MED SCHOOLS WHEN WE GOT PREGNANT WITH YOU, THOUGH, AND WELL, THAT CHANGED THINGS.

SO IS THIS A GUILT TRIP?

HA. NO. BUT I DID GO THROUGH THIS PERIOD OF...SEARCHING. LOOKING FOR WHAT I WANTED TO BE, WHO I WAS, BEYOND A FATHER, A HUSBAND.

AND WHAT I REALIZED WAS THAT MY DESIRE TO BE A DOCTOR WAS REALLY JUST ABOUT WANTING TO PREVENT OTHER KIDS FROM FEELING WHAT I FELT THAT MORNING.

AS A TEACHER, THOUGH, I COULD MAKE KIDS FEEL SAFE BY PREPARING THEM FOR THE WORLD.

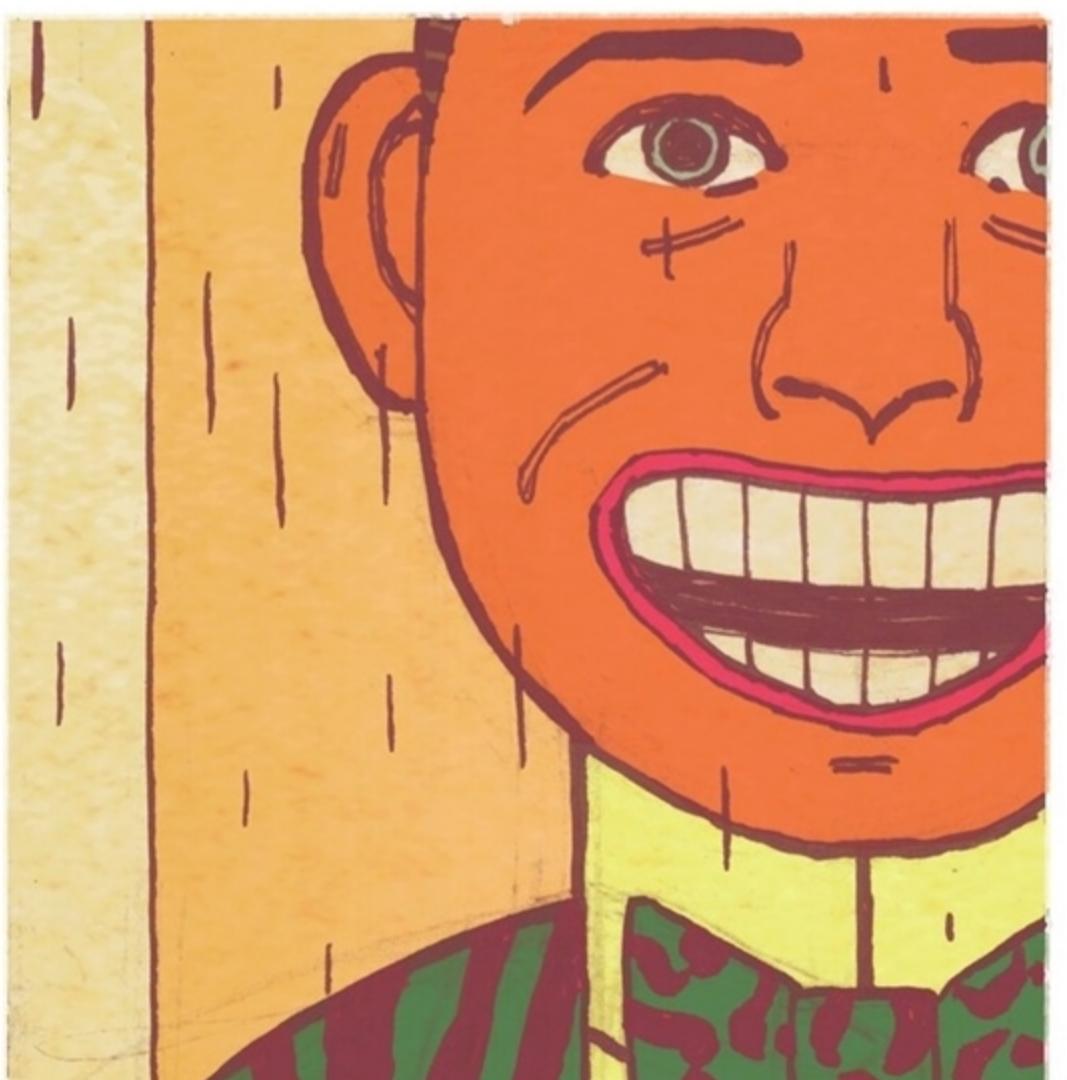
MAYBE IN SOME OTHER LIFE I AM A DOCTOR.

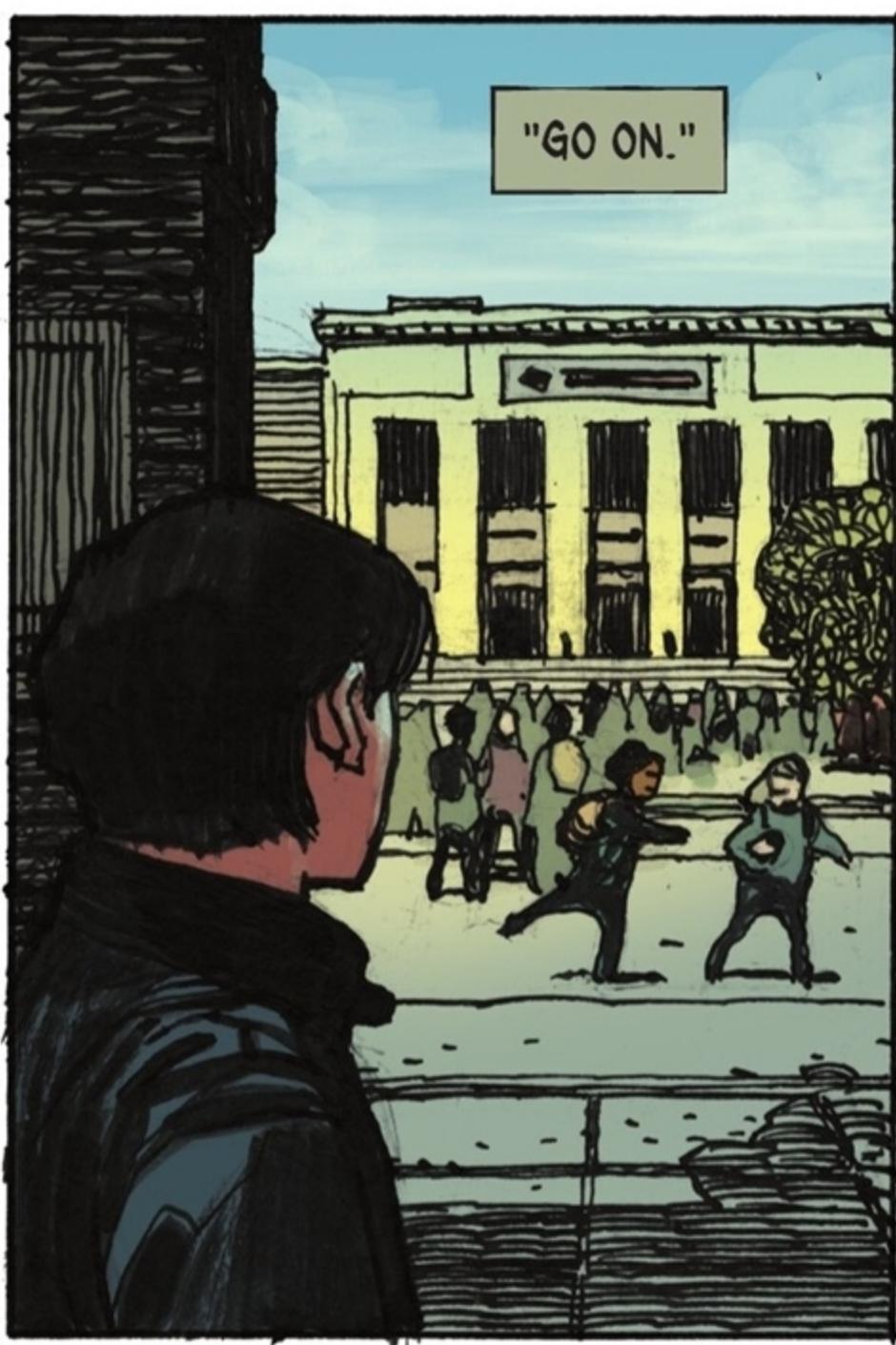
BUT IN THIS ONE, TEACHING GIVES ME A WAY OF DOING THAT CORE THING. ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO HELP YOUR MOM WITH DINNER. BUT THIS IS AMAZING. REALLY.

"BRUCE? IT'S TIME NOW. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SAY?"



I... I KNOW  
MR. CHILL GETS  
TO MAKE A STATEMENT  
TODAY, BUT BEFORE THAT,  
I WANTED TO SAY THAT I'VE  
HAD A MOMENT TO THINK  
ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT  
HAPPENED THAT DAY, AND  
I JUST... I WANTED TO  
SAY WHAT I  
REALIZED.



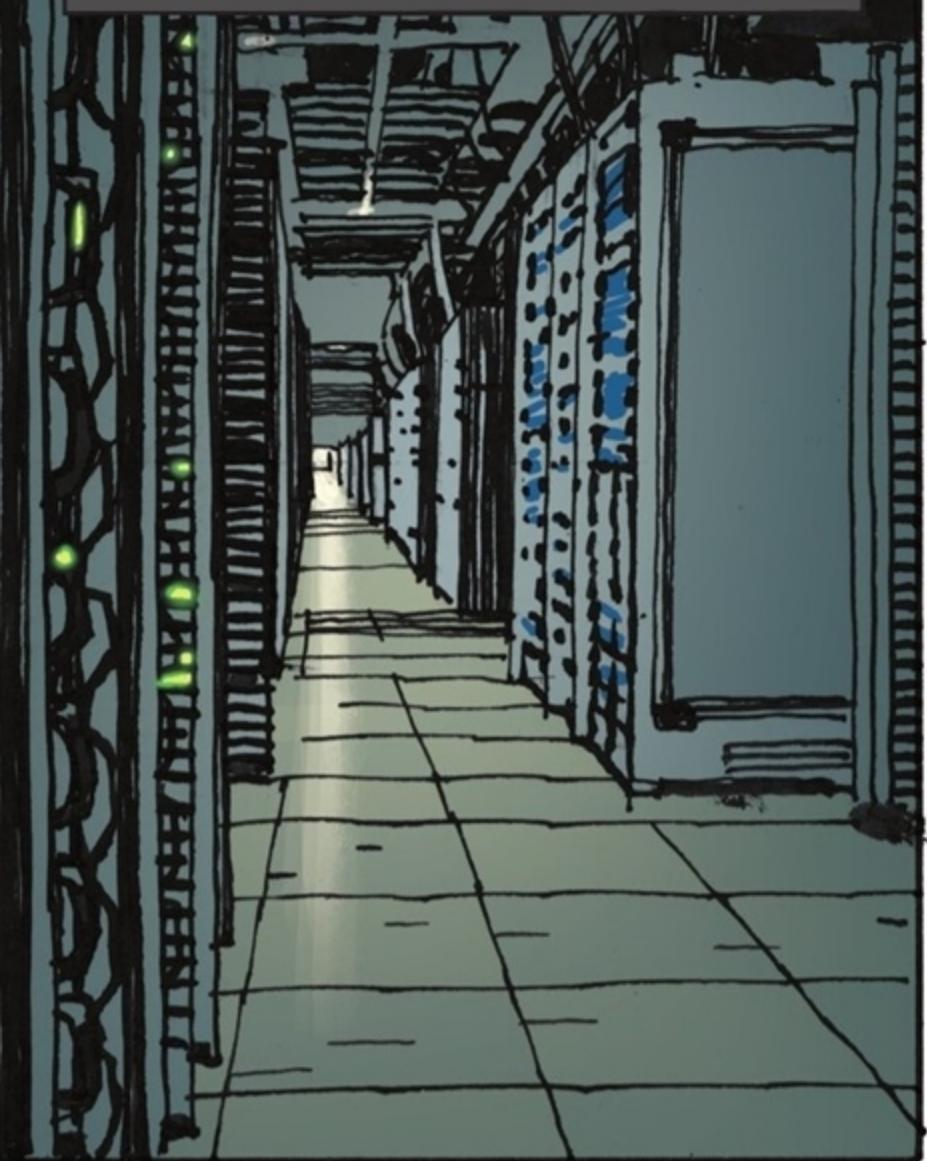


"LIKE THEY'RE AT THE MERCY OF ALL THESE FORCES THAT SEEM BEYOND THEIR CONTROL. POWERLESS."

"SOME ARE ANGRY AT EVERYONE WHO LET THEM DOWN."

"AND SOME ARE SCARED AND HUNKERING."

"BUT IT'S BAD."



YOU KILLED THAT HAPPINESS,  
MR. CHILL. FOREVER.

SO, I'M NOT STAYING FOR ANYTHING  
YOU HAVE TO SAY. I DON'T CARE WHAT  
MADE YOU DO WHAT YOU DID.

I JUST  
NEED YOU TO  
KNOW THAT  
I HATE  
YOU.

MR.  
WAYNE--

I #\\$%&  
HATE YOU,  
YOU HEAR  
ME?!



"SO, WHAT ARE YOU  
SAYING, BRUCE?"

I'M SAYING,  
MAYBE IN ANOTHER  
PLACE AND TIME,  
SOMETHING ELSE WOULD  
BE ENOUGH, BUT HERE,  
IN THIS PLACE, AT THIS  
MOMENT, THEIR BAT  
NEEDS TO BE ALL OF  
IT, PLUS MORE.

EXPLAIN.

"IT SHOULD BE INTIMIDATING,  
BUT EVEN MORE SO."

"LIKE...  
SCARY."

"AND IT SHOULD BE  
MORE ADAPTABLE  
THAN EVER."

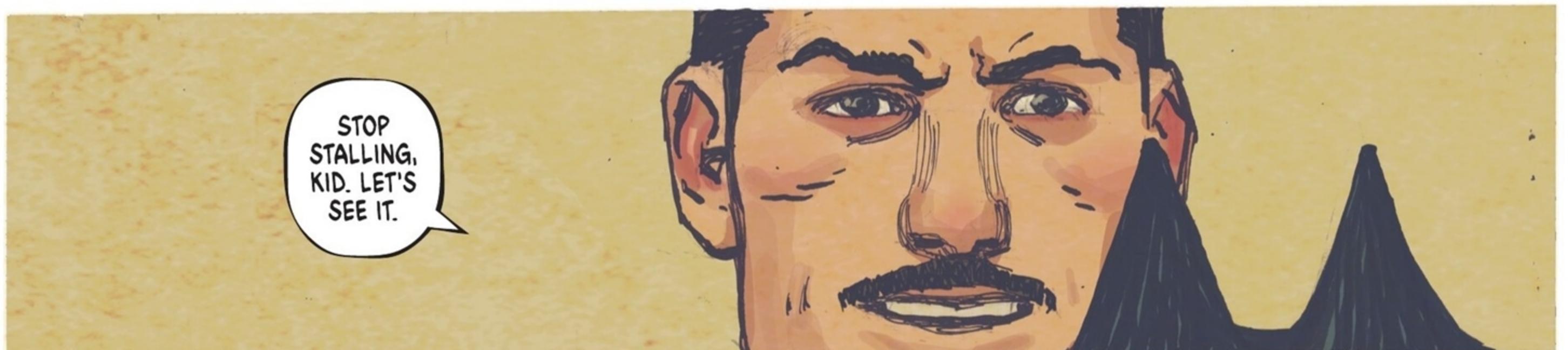
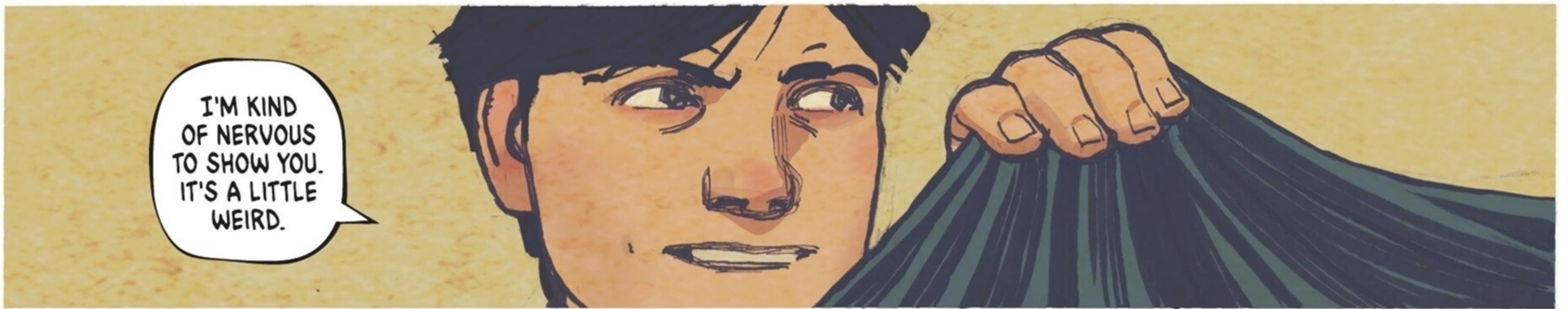
"IT SHOULD MAP FARTHER  
THAN BEFORE."

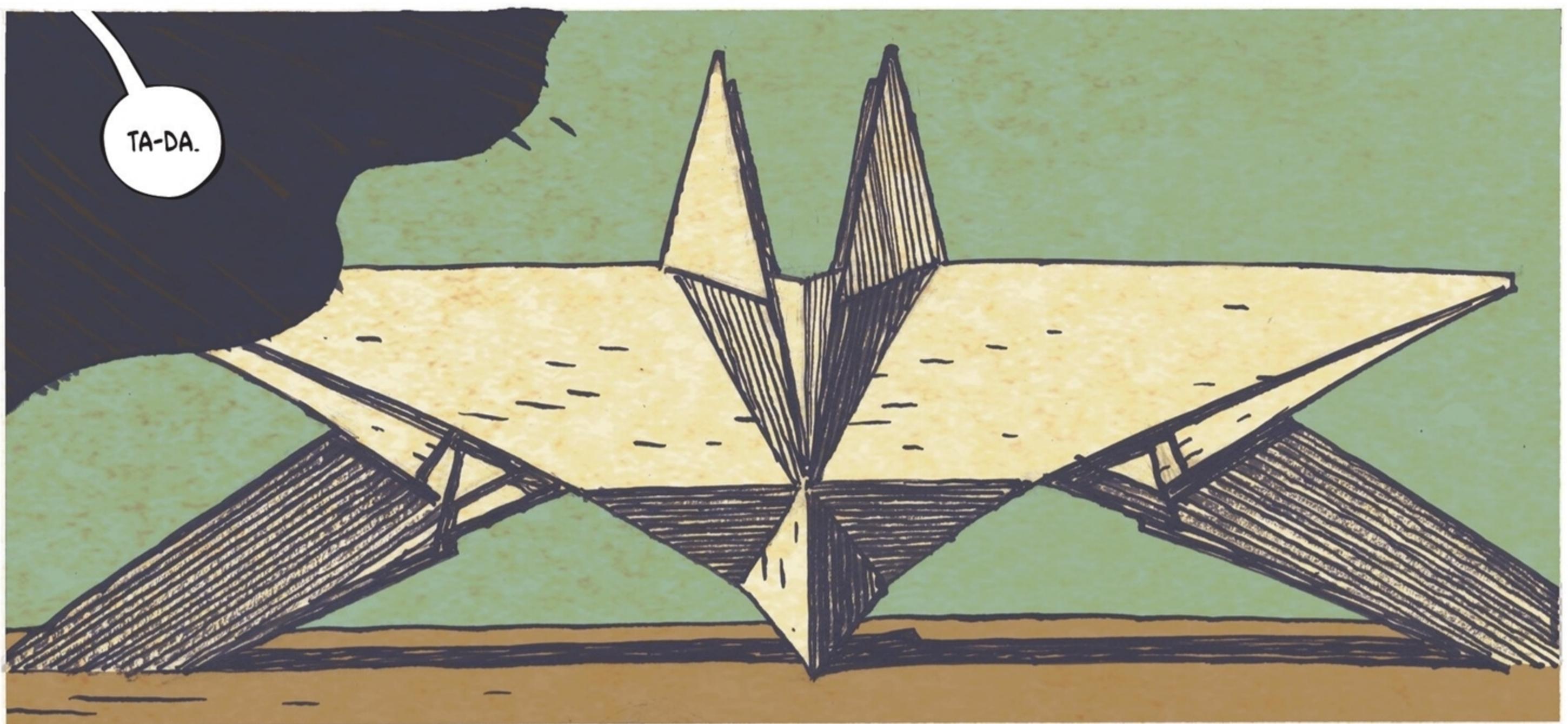
"ROOSTING IN ALL SORTS OF NEW  
PLACES. JUST TAKING SPOTS OVER."

"SO, WHAT HAVE  
YOU BUILT, BRUCE?"

RECORD.

TESTING  
BAT-THUMB.





IT'D BE A TOOL TO USE HOWEVER THEY NEED. THEY DON'T HAVE TO RELY ON THE POWERS THAT BE TO SET IT UP. IT MAKES THE BRIDGE **THEIRS**. THEY CAN USE IT FOR AID, FOR DEFENSE...



"...EVEN  
OFFENSE."

The annual Dance for a  
Better Gotham charity ball.

Gotham's finest mingle, then  
sponsor a competition in which  
youth dance groups from  
different neighborhoods  
compete for prizes.

Me, I'm here for him. Randal Powers,  
the billionaire who owns the trucking  
conglomerate the Maronis and  
Falcones were using.

In the news, he was horrified by  
what I exposed. Vowed to support  
new regulations on his trucks.

But I hear him lobbying Max Mooney,  
head of the G.D.O.T., against tighter  
transit laws. Promising money.

It takes everything in my body  
not to bust through the skylight  
and put him in the dancefloor.

Instead, I keep listening.  
I listen to Jackson Ellis, the EPA  
chief back-dealing with William  
Acme, one of the biggest  
polluters in Gotham.

I listen to the politician  
who vowed to bring factory  
jobs back to the Heights  
begging the automation  
giant for donations.

I listen to all of you. So many  
who're supposed to be protecting  
the city, or who could help so easily,  
but choose not to. Choose instead to  
stay up here, laughing and eating...

Like there's anything left of this city  
to eat. No, you ate it all years ago,  
and ate well. It's just bones now.

But I hear you.

A few store-bought GSM  
ears hidden beneath that  
dance floor.

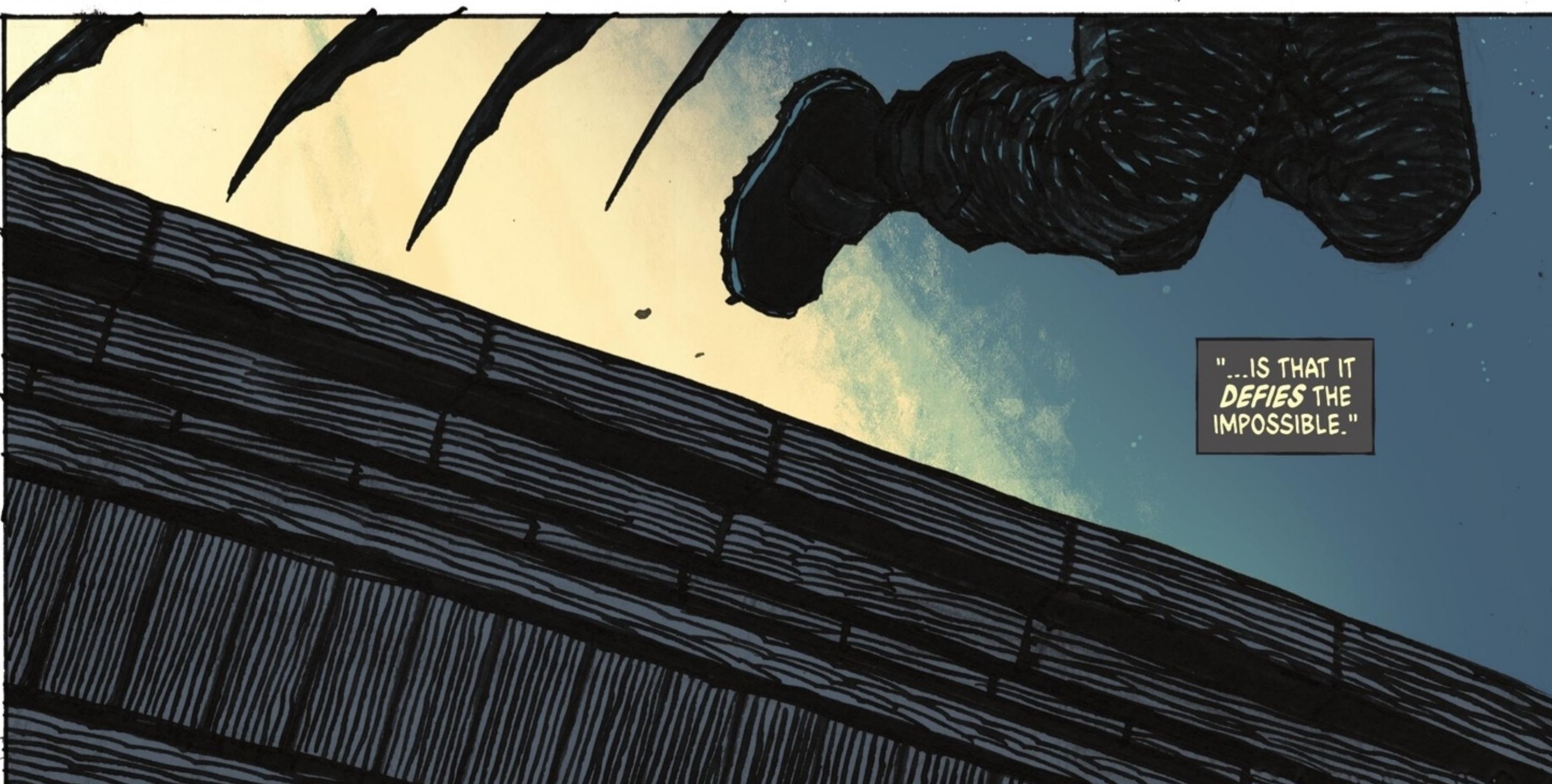
Not to mention the  
thermal coil that'll  
flash-heat the gold  
to 150 degrees in a  
moment.

But no one can touch  
you up here, right?

Just hot enough so we get  
to watch you dance for once.  
Even if only for a second.

In this mad little  
kingdom of yours at  
the top of the world?

Well, I'm coming for you.





"IT'S THE **ONLY** MAMMAL ON EARTH  
THAT **FLIES**, DAD. THE ONLY ONE.

"IT'S THIS CRAZY  
LITTLE CREATURE  
THAT SHOWS US WE  
CAN BEAT ANYTHING  
HOLDING US DOWN.

"TO THIS BAT,  
NOTHING IS  
IMPOSSIBLE,  
DESPITE WHAT  
ANYONE TELLS  
YOU. IT SAYS GO  
**BIGGER**, GO  
**HIGHER...**"

"...GO PLACES  
YOU DIDN'T THINK  
YOU COULD."

"SO, WHAT DO  
YOU THINK?"

"I THINK...  
IT'S READY."



ABSOLUTE  
BATMAN  
**"THE ZOO"**  
PART FOUR  
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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

WELL? YOU HAD  
SOMETHING YOU  
WANTED TO  
SAY?

